

# SEMI-WEEKLY MAUI NEWS

"FOR THE VALLEY ISLE FIRST"

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JOSEPH H. GRAY : : : : EDITOR

FRIDAY : : : : APRIL 28, 1922

## THE WAIKAEKA FAILURE

Failure of individual effort on the part of the small land holder and the calling in of experienced corporate interests to handle the sugar interests of homesteaders are what the conference in Honolulu adduced and produced from the Waiakaeke situation. The conference brought out the information that the total debt against the tract is \$932,000. On the face of affairs homesteading of sugar lands has been a failure that in magnitude almost approaches catastrophe at Waiakaeke at least.

Friends of the homesteading of cane lands may argue that the Waiakaeke planters have not had a fair chance, that conditions were such they had not a fair trial. They will point to the sudden sweeping decline in the price of sugar and the abnormal shortage of labor, but such assertions will not change the facts of the case. They may say the contracts under which they sent their cane to the mill were not equitable. Be that as it may, plantations doing business on a grand scale were losers, will be losers again under similar industrial conditions, and if big concerns are unable to operate at a profit there is no chance for the little fellow.

At the outset of the Waiakaeke experiment it was asserted by opponents to the homesteading of cane lands that the owner of a tract of a few acres could not cultivate it economically. That assertion has been substantiated for the time being at least. With all that has been said against corporate control of lands it has been found necessary to come back to the corporation that formerly cultivated the land to pull the individuals out of the hole in which they find themselves.

To cultivate land properly an adequate supply of dependable labor at all times is necessary. The small farmer can not afford to employ an adequate force to meet emergencies at all times. Only two ways out appear; a cooperative organization that will hire and allot the laborers and keep them employed continuously or a strong corporation. At Waiakaeke the sugar company has been called upon and has agreed to take the place of such a cooperative arrangement.

Elsewhere the idea of a central mill to grind the crops of the surrounding acreage may work out well. Its working depends largely on the supply of available labor. Here on Hawaii there is not the labor on or adjacent to the sugar lands unless it be brought and kept employed here, homes and living accommodations supplied. Such a central mill idea may be worked out in Hawaii along modified lines but not along those that were tried in the experiment just outside of Hilo.

The losses sustained at Hilo are not to the homesteaders only but fall upon the whole territory in decreased valuations and decreased revenues from taxation and a lessened volume of business for the merchants, wholesalers as well as retailers.

In theory it is very nice to talk of dividing up the fertile acres of Hawaii into many fields and for each such field having a happy home, but it is a theory which has not worked out.

Homesteading laws that are applicable to the mainland where there is virgin soil for the making of farm homes is one thing but here the taking of lands from those who have made them productive and can keep them so and turning them over to persons untrained in agricultural work often, is vastly different.

The Waiakaeke situation is the worst blow to homesteading in the Islands that it has ever received.

## THE CHILDREN'S FAIR

What the youthful gardeners of Maui will do in the way of sending exhibits to the Children's Agricultural Fair which will be held in connection with the annual track and field day at the Fair Grounds on Saturday, May 6, remains to be seen. The making of it into a success has been left up to them. They were told that if they wanted to exhibit the produce of their home and school gardens they could have a Children's Fair at the Fair Grounds and they said they would like to hold one. It can be made an interesting showing if the young folk send in the exhibits. If made a success there is no reason why it should not be made an annual fixture.

Nothing stimulates endeavor more than keen rivalry and nothing leads to success more quickly than to learn where one has failed and where another has succeeded. Such purposes are the underlying ones of every agricultural or industrial fair and are behind the movement for a Children's Fair on Maui.

Value of a knowledge of gardening is recognized more generally now than ever before and the training in agriculture that can be secured in the schools, while not extensive, is a decided asset to any youngster when he or she quits school. It is a help in endeavor in making a little home later on in life. It is a subject that has its appeal to the children, too, as is shown by the number of them who go in for garden making. Such interest is evidenced by the complaints of Japanese language school teachers that children stay away from their institutions in order to work in the gardens.

Except for those who have been called upon to act as judges in the annual school and home garden contests and a few others, there is little known as to what the children are doing in garden work. To go from school to school and see the evidences of endeavor, the difficulties the young folk encounter and overcome is a revelation and throws a new light on child life. They surmount discouragements and meet trials which would deter and disgust many a grown up, and they persevere.

It is not possible for many to visit the various gardens but numbers who go down to the field and track meet can well make an early start and spend half an hour or more, a few minutes at least, in seeing what really encouraging results are being achieved with the gardens. The children, less than the adults, could visit other gardens but many of them will go to see the athletic games and at the same time can see what their rival gardeners have grown even if not where and how they did it.

This year's undertaking is essentially an experiment, but it is a movement in the right direction and may lead to bigger things. Oahu is to have a similar fair May 27.

## THE OPTIMISTIC PESSIMIST

Publishing of tirades against prohibition and calling it a curse and the father of lawlessness is not giving the law a fair chance but is aiding and abetting in increasing disregard and disrespect for the law. It's only fair to give it a trial and keep mum till its chance is ended.

Nothing in the world is more stubborn than facts except those who refuse to recognize facts as such, seek to deny or ignore them.

The Bible is authority for the assertion that God created man in his own image. It is the evil minded who strive to make men and women ashamed of their bodies.

Many a man who laughs at woman's "intuition" is a believer in his own "hunches."

The prude can put an "h" in sock and always get a shock.

If all road hogs found their ways into imus luaus would be so common one would not care to go round the corner for one.

Many persons consider that the elimination of prejudice consists of bringing others over to their beliefs instead of permitting each one to hug his own illusions. Just as liberty consists of making the other chap do what he wants to do in a way that he does not like.

It is all perfectly proper to produce "Mice and Men" but it may be hoped that no motion picture producer will film "Mice and Women" or there may be louder howls for film censorship.

Reformers are now trying to take the 'ell out of Hollywood.

No one has yet been able to visualize a saxophone accompaniment for the heavenly harpists. Man is still left the comfort of believing that his sorrows may end with his earthly existence.

What to do with our liberty bonds is a headline that sounds interesting. Mr. Average citizen has been selling his in order not to become delinquent in his taxes.

## RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

As definitely outlined the proposal to furnish a greater amount of religious instruction in the schools is very different from the reports of what was tentatively proposed at the meeting of high school principals in Honolulu. In only the most remote sense is the proposal connected with the department of public instruction. The instruction would not be in the school buildings, not even on school premises, it would be optional and only children whose parents desired or at least did not object would attend. The schools would, however, be asked to relieve children from duty in the classes that they might have the opportunity to attend the school for religious instruction.

It is as to the releasing of children from school that some objection may be offered. The board of public instruction has found that Japanese language schools as they have been conducted in the past work against the success of attendants at such institutions during the government school hours. Hence has come a regulation of the hours for holding sessions of the language schools. If such regulations be broken down for the purpose of permitting children to attend schools for religious instruction the foreign language schools would have an equal right to ask for the release of children from attendance at the government schools for similar periods to attend the non-Christian ethical schools. What has been accomplished by the language school legislation might be in whole or in part undone. This appears to be the only valid objection to the proposal of the churches and is given for what it is worth.

As to the probable or possible success of the proposal if inaugurated, it is another matter. It is not clear on what grounds the proponents of the plan feel that they could secure a larger attendance at the day schools of religious instruction than they are able to draw into the Sunday Schools. Agreed that sufficient religious instruction cannot be imparted in a half hour or so on Sunday. Agreed that there is not sufficient religious training in many of the homes. Can it be said that the day schools for such instruction would draw even all of those who attend Sunday School? Is there good ground for belief that the children will take study time or play time to go for religious instruction?

It is the profession of ministers to teach the gospel and the problems of their profession are their own. They must solve them for themselves or acknowledge to themselves at least that they have failed. In their efforts they are entitled to every encouragement for they are not working for themselves but for humanity. The Christian Churches are facing new conditions and must go out to get the young, they cannot succeed by simply waiting and calling but they must give the children something to do and something to make the study more attractive.

A welfare worker from Kauai is reported to have told the conference in Honolulu last week that haoles were poor sportsmen and need education along that line more than any other class. His observations may be correct as to the Garden Island but they are contrary to the facts as found on Maui.

Two days remain of Humane Week. In two days there is time for numbers of acts of kindness to animals and to children, to the weak and the helpless, and then there is no reason why the practice should not be extended through a "humane year" and so on into a humane lifetime.

It is significant that Senator John H. Wise has said he will not be a candidate for delegate if H. A. Baldwin will take the nomination again. There are other possibilities who feel the same way and not all of them are Republicans. There is little desire to make a contest with the Maui man either in the primaries or at the general election.

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